

Sirs:

I and my business are telephone customers in the State of Wyoming, and are horrified to discover that you are considering declaring telephone markets here to be open to competition as per Section 271 of the 1996 Telecomm Act. In my city of Laramie, Wyoming, Qwest has forestalled competition via secret deals and predatory tactics. For example, it is well known in our community that a fiber optic line, constructed at great expense by MacLeodUSA between Laramie and Fort Collins, Colorado, could have brought competition to our city but was abandoned due to a deal -- whose terms remain secret -- between MacLeodUSA and Qwest. The abandonment of this fiber optic link has prevented our city from receiving any truly competitive service. (About all one can get is Qwest's service billed to us by another company... at a higher price.) Qwest's practices (it has misplaced our payments and then cut off our service, demanding large reconnection fees and/or large deposits) leave much to be desired, but we are 100% in the grip of its monopoly and have no place else to turn. (We actually hesitated to make this comment for fear of possible retaliation from Qwest, but have done so in the hope that you will reject Qwest's application and thereby force it to change its ways.)

The notion that you could POSSIBLY consider granting Qwest permission to enter long distance markets when it has not allowed any sort of viable competition in local markets greatly concerns us. The comments by AT&T and other competitors whom Qwest has shut out are on the mark. Kindly reject Qwest's Section 271 application for the State of Wyoming unless it actually allows true, viable competition. The health of our businesses and the welfare of our people depend on your taking this action.

Sincerely,

Laurence Brett ("Brett") Glass
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